

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A writing instrument with a sheet material dispenser comprising:

a writing instrument body portion;

a writing tip carried by the body portion;

5 a dispenser base adapted for attachment to the writing instrument body

portion;

a dispenser housing coupled to the dispenser base defining an interior receptacle, the dispenser housing further defining an opening in communication with the interior receptacle; and

10 a roll of sheet material disposed in the housing interior receptacle, the sheet material having a thickness smaller than a width of the opening to allow a leading end of the roll of sheet material to pass through the opening.

15 2. The writing instrument of claim 1, in which the interior receptacle has a generally cylindrical shape.

3. The writing instrument of claim 1, in which the dispenser base is formed integrally with the dispenser housing.

20 4. The writing instrument of claim 3, further comprising a barrel portion coupled to the dispenser base and disposed inside the dispenser housing.

25 5. The writing instrument of claim 4, in which the roll of sheet material is formed in an annulus defining a central aperture sized for insertion over the barrel portion.

30 6. The writing instrument of claim 4, in which the barrel portion is hollow to define a cap recess sized to releasably engage the writing instrument body portion and to enclose the writing tip.

7. The writing instrument of claim 4, in which the barrel portion extends beyond the dispenser housing to define a nub, and in which an end of the writing

instrument body portion opposite the writing tip defines a recess sized to releasably engage the nub.

5           8.       The writing instrument of claim 4, in which a gap is defined between the barrel portion and the dispenser housing, and in which a top portion extends between the barrel portion and the dispenser housing to enclose the gap.

10           9.       The writing instrument of claim 1, in which the dispenser base comprises an inner shell having an outer surface sized for insertion into the dispenser housing and an inner surface sized to receive the roll of sheet material, and an end cover attached to one end of the inner shell, the inner shell being partially cylindrical and having opposing first and second shell ends defining an inner slot therebetween sized to receive at least the thickness of the sheet material.

15           10.      The writing instrument of claim 9, in which the dispenser housing opening is formed as an outer slot in register with the inner slot.

20           11.      The writing instrument of claim 9, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a plurality of stacked sheets rolled into a semi-annular shape.

12.       The writing instrument of claim 9, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a plurality of stacked sheets having a transverse fold.

25           13.      The writing instrument of claim 9, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a contiguous length of sheet material rolled into an annular shape.

14.       The writing instrument of claim 9, in which the dispenser base is removably attached to the instrument body portion.

30           15.      The writing instrument of claim 14, in which the dispenser base further includes a nub, and in which an end of the writing instrument body portion opposite the writing tip defines a recess sized to releasably engage the nub.

16. The writing instrument of claim 14, in which the dispenser base defines a recess sized to releasably engage the writing instrument body portion and to enclose the writing tip.

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17. The writing instrument of claim 9, in which the dispenser base is permanently attached to the writing instrument body portion.

10 18. The writing instrument of claim 9, in which the dispenser base is removably attached to the writing instrument body portion.

15 19. The writing instrument of claim 1, in which the dispenser base comprises a central blocking portion and an edge blocking portion extending partially around the central blocking portion to define an exposed section of the central blocking portion, the edge blocking portion having opposed contact edges, in which the dispenser housing comprises a partial cylindrical shell extending around the edge blocking portion and partially past the opposed contact edges, and in which the roll of sheet material comprises a plurality of stacked sheets rolled into a semi-annular shape having opposite ends engaging respective edge blocking portion contact edges and a rear stack surface engaging the central blocking portion exposed section.

20 25 20. The writing instrument of claim 1, in which the dispenser base comprises a cylindrical shell defining a slot in register with the dispenser housing opening and a chamber within the housing interior receptacle sized to receive the roll of sheet material.

30 21. The writing instrument of claim 20, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a plurality of stacked sheets having a transverse fold, and in which the cylindrical shell slot is sufficiently wide to allow insertion of the plurality of stacked sheets having a transverse fold therethrough.

22. The writing instrument of claim 20, in which the dispenser housing is

movable to selectively place the housing opening out of register with the cylindrical shell slot.

5 23. The writing instrument of claim 22, in which the dispenser housing comprises a rotatable cap.

10 24. The writing instrument of claim 20, in which the writing instrument body portion defines a circular opening having an inner diameter and in which the dispenser base comprises an end cover having a first side attached to the cylindrical shell and a second side attached to an insertion cylinder having an outer diameter

corresponding to the circular opening inner diameter.

15 25. The writing instrument of claim 1, in which the dispenser base comprises a bottom wall and the dispenser housing comprises a back wall and a front wall coupled to the bottom wall and a top wall coupled to the back and front walls, wherein a slot formed in the front wall defines the dispenser housing opening.

20 26. The writing instrument of claim 25, in which a gap between the front and back walls is sized to allow insertion of the roll of sheet material into the housing interior receptacle.

25 27. The writing instrument of claim 25, in which the dispenser base further includes a central spindle extending through the housing interior receptacle and coupled to the bottom and top walls.

30 28. The writing instrument of claim 1, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a backing layer and a sheet material layer adhered to the backing layer, wherein the writing instrument further comprises a contact member disposed in the dispenser housing and defining a small radius contact surface over which the roll of sheet material is fed to at least partially separate the sheet material layer from the backing layer.

29. The writing instrument of claim 28, in which the dispenser housing opening comprises a first slot and the dispenser housing further defines a second slot, and in which the backing layer is fed through the first slot and the sheet material is fed through the second slot.

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30. The writing instrument of claim 28, in which the contact member comprises a rod.

10 31. The writing instrument of claim 28, in which the contact member comprises a wedge.

15 32. The writing instrument of claim 1, in which the dispenser base includes an attachment end adapted to engage the writing instrument body portion, an end cover having a first side attached to the attachment end and a second side, and a spindle attached to the end cover second side and disposed inside the dispenser housing.

20 33. The writing instrument of claim 32, in which the dispenser base further includes a plug wall disposed axially along a length of the spindle.

25 34. The writing instrument of claim 33, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a plurality of stacked sheets rolled into a semi-annular shape having opposed ends, and in which the plurality of stacked sheets are disposed inside the dispenser housing so that the plug wall is located between the opposed ends.

30 35. The writing instrument of claim 32, in which a cap holder is coupled to the spindle, and the dispenser housing defines a back opening allowing access to the cap holder.

36. The writing instrument of claim 32, in which the dispenser housing is slidable relative to the dispenser base.

37. The writing instrument of claim 32, further comprising a sheet cartridge having a semi-annular side wall having a gap, the side wall defining an inner aperture sized for insertion over the spindle and an outer surface sized for insertion into the dispenser housing, the sheet cartridge holding the roll of sheet material.

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38. The writing instrument of claim 37, in which the sheet cartridge side wall gap is sized to allow the roll of sheet material to be inserted therethrough.

10 39. The writing instrument of claim 37, in which the writing instrument body portion defines a circular opening having an inner diameter and in which the dispenser base comprises an insertion cylinder having an outer diameter corresponding to the circular opening inner diameter.

15 40. The writing instrument of claim 39, in which the circular opening and insertion cylinder are formed with complementary grooves and ridges, respectively, to permanently affix the dispenser base to the writing instrument body portion.

20 41. The writing instrument of claim 37, in which the dispenser housing is slidable relative to the sheet cartridge.

25 42. The writing instrument of claim 41, in which the sheet cartridge further includes a stopper tab adapted to engage the dispenser housing, thereby to limit slidable movement of the dispenser housing relative to the sheet cartridge.

43. The writing instrument of claim 37, in which the dispenser housing and sheet cartridge are formed of transparent material.

30 44. The writing instrument of claim 1, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a plurality of stacked sheets having a transverse fold.

45. A sheet material cartridge for use with a writing instrument, the cartridge comprising:

a base adapted for removable attachment to the writing instrument;  
a housing coupled to the dispenser base defining an interior receptacle, the dispenser housing further defining an opening in communication with the interior receptacle; and

5 sheet material comprising a plurality of sheets disposed in the housing interior receptacle, the sheet material having a thickness smaller than a width of the opening to allow the sheet material to pass through the opening.

10 46. The cartridge of claim 45, in which the writing instrument comprises a recess, and in which the base comprises a nub sized to releasably engage the writing instrument recess.

15 47. The cartridge of claim 45, in which at least a portion of the housing extends adjacent to a length of the writing instrument.

20 48. The cartridge of claim 45, in which the plurality of sheets are arranged in a flat stack.

25 49. The cartridge of claim 45, in which the housing is releasably coupled to the base.

30 50. The cartridge of claim 45, in which the housing interior receptacle is generally cylindrical, and in which the plurality of sheets are arranged as a roll of sheet material.

51. The cartridge of claim 50, in which the base comprises an inner shell having an outer surface sized for insertion into the housing and an inner surface sized to receive the roll of sheet material, and an end cover attached to one end of the inner shell, the inner shell being partially cylindrical and having opposing first and second shell ends defining an inner slot therebetween sized to receive at least the thickness of the sheet material.

52. The cartridge of claim 51, in which the housing opening is formed as an outer slot in register with the inner slot.

5 53. The cartridge of claim 51, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a plurality of stacked sheets rolled into a semi-annular shape.

10 54. The cartridge of claim 51, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a plurality of stacked sheets having a transverse fold.

15 55. The cartridge of claim 51, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a contiguous length of sheet material rolled into an annular shape.

56. The cartridge of claim 51, in which the base further includes a nub; and in which an end of the writing instrument defines a recess sized to releasably engage the nub.

20 57. A combination writing instrument and sheet material dispenser comprising:

25 a writing instrument body portion;  
a writing tip carried by the body portion;  
a dispenser base affixed to the writing instrument body portion;  
a dispenser housing coupled to the dispenser base defining an interior receptacle, the dispenser housing further defining an opening in communication with the interior receptacle; and  
a roll of sheet material disposed in the housing interior receptacle, the sheet material having a thickness smaller than a width of the opening to allow a leading end of the roll of sheet material to pass through the opening.

30 58. The apparatus of claim 57, in which the writing instrument body portion defines a circular opening having an inner diameter and in which the dispenser base comprises an insertion cylinder having an outer diameter sized to frictionally engage the circular opening inner diameter.

59. The apparatus of claim 58, in which the circular opening and insertion cylinder are formed with complementary grooves and ridges, respectively.

5 60. The apparatus of claim 58, in which the dispenser base further comprises an end cover having a first side attached to the insertion cylinder and a second side attached to an inner shell having an outer surface sized for insertion into the dispenser housing and an inner surface sized to receive the roll of sheet material, the inner shell being partially cylindrical and having opposing first and second shell ends defining an inner slot therebetween sized to receive at least the thickness of the  
10 sheet material.

15 61. The apparatus of claim 60, in which the dispenser housing opening is formed as an outer slot in register with the inner slot.

62. The apparatus of claim 60, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a plurality of stacked sheets rolled into a semi-annular shape.

20 63. The apparatus of claim 60, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a plurality of stacked sheets having a transverse fold.

64. The apparatus of claim 60, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a contiguous length of sheet material rolled into an annular shape.

25 65. The apparatus of claim 61, in which the dispenser housing is slideable relative to the dispenser base between a first position in which the outer slot communicates with the inner slot and a second position in which the outer slot is out of register with the inner slot.

30 66. The apparatus of claim 58, in which the dispenser base includes an end cover having a first side attached to the insertion cylinder and a second side, and a spindle attached to the end cover second side and disposed inside the dispenser

housing.

67. The apparatus of claim 66, in which the dispenser base further includes a plug wall disposed axially along a length of the spindle.

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68. The apparatus of claim 67, in which the roll of sheet material comprises a plurality of stacked sheets rolled into a semi-annular shape having opposed ends, and in which the plurality of stacked sheets are disposed inside the dispenser housing so that the plug wall is located between the opposed ends.

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69. The apparatus of claim 66, in which a cap holder is coupled to the spindle, and the dispenser housing defines a back opening allowing access to the cap holder.

15 70. The apparatus of claim 66, in which the dispenser housing is slidable relative to the dispenser base.

20 71. The apparatus of claim 66, further comprising a sheet cartridge having a semi-annular side wall having a gap, the side wall defining an inner aperture sized for insertion over the spindle and an outer surface sized for insertion into the dispenser housing, the sheet cartridge holding the roll of sheet material.

72. The apparatus of claim 71, in which the sheet cartridge side wall gap is sized to allow the roll of sheet material to be inserted therethrough.

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73. The apparatus of claim 71, in which the writing instrument body portion defines a circular opening having an inner diameter and in which the dispenser base comprises an insertion cylinder having an outer diameter corresponding to the circular opening inner diameter.

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74. The apparatus of claim 73, in which the circular opening and insertion cylinder are formed with complementary grooves and ridges, respectively, to

permanently affix the dispenser base to the writing instrument body portion.

75. The apparatus of claim 71, in which the dispenser housing is slidable relative to the sheet cartridge.

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76. The apparatus of claim 75, in which the sheet cartridge further includes a stopper tab adapted to engage the dispenser housing, thereby to limit slidable movement of the dispenser housing relative to the sheet cartridge.

10 77. The apparatus of claim 71, in which the dispenser housing and sheet cartridge are formed of transparent material.